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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

COURIER

EEA 16901

MAR 4 1963

-2 DEC 1955

Chief of Station, Austria

Chief of Base, Pullach

Operational/INTEL/CART

Johann SANITZER

INFO: EE
COS/6
MOR (ORANG)

REF: VIM 6799

1. Reference was received with interest at COS. Apparently ZIPPER Headquarters was not aware of SANITZER's return until so informed by COS. ZIPPER expressed an interest in debriefing Subject and COS offered to help if ZIPPER was not able to do so through their connections to the Austrian Authorities.

2. Apparently ZIPPER has been following the SANITZER case through two of its Field Agencies: Det 5 (former GSW) and Det 2. In September 1955 Det 5 reported the following:

- a. In a recent Wiener Kurier article which reported the names of 74 Austrian returnees from Soviet prison camps, Subject's name was listed as the 74th. Actually only 73 persons arrived in Austria, Subject being the one left off.
- b. On 8 August 1955 the Salzburger Volksblatt reported that Subject had been held back in the Soviet Union because he had become insane and that he had been sent to Kasan.
- c. On the basis of this article Subject's sister (Fran) Grete BUCHNER, a retired schoolteacher, residing Wagram No. 35, Bezirk 8, Johann I.F. wrote to the Salzburger Volksblatt the following day. From this letter it was learned that as of 18 March 1955, Subject had been permitted to write letters and had been in correspondence with his relatives since that date. From the letter and statements of other Austrian returnees it could be deduced that Subject had been in a "silent" camp (Schweigelager) for the past six years.
- d. In answer to her letter, Subject's sister was informed that the returnees Gottfried STOTTER at Neukirchen and Heinrich FORSTNER at the Salzburg Landeskrankenhaus could give information regarding Subject.
- e. V-22146 (Subject para 1 EEA 12839 and most probably the source of the above information) talked to one of the returnees, a Rudolf FISCHER, owner of the See Restaurant in St. Gilgen, who had met Subject in the Schweigelager.

Distribution:

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FISCHER stated that Subject's conduct had been exemplary and that he was very popular among his fellow prisoners.

3. In the course of Det 2's investigation, which has not been very active since the Summer of 1954, it was found that a certain Bernhard MEYER had come around to the LCV Bavaria in October 1954 with a letter containing SANITZER's signature and the dateline Dresden, 17 August 1954. This letter was supposedly in answer to one MEYER had sent to SANITZER. However, a comparison with handwriting known to be SANITZER's hand by Det 2 showed the letter to be in reality a fake. MEYER, when confronted with this, admitted its falseness. ZIPPER expressed farther interest in MEYER who was extradited to Austria. Checking on MEYER found him to be a notorious liar and possibly an SRIS confusion agent. (see EGMA-5207, et al for background). The letter also contained a reference to hunting by SANITZER. A V-Mann of Det 2 who knew SANITZER well during the 1942-1945 period (in all likelihood MAIER, Chief of Det 2) stated that SANITZER never had any interest in hunting. The above was reported to FOB in November-December 1954. Incidentally FOB has a copy of the letter in question and the sample of SANITZER's true handwriting used in the comparison.

another aspect developed in the puzzle. This was described to MAIER on 26 November 1955 by MAIER in Salzburg. According to MAIER a certain Lial LOIDL (phonetic) had been the "Lager Frau" of SANITZER in Bayreuth during the war. Later she was bombed out in Berlin and brought to Vienna by MAIER since she was a relative, albeit distant, of MAIER's wife. In Vienna Lial LOIDL was arrested by the Russians when they captured the city. She was to be released in 1950 but only on the condition that she accept a mission against MAIER himself. LOIDL refused and was never released. MAIER heard the story of the attempted double-play of LOIDL through a friend in Hamburg who had returned from Eastern captivity. This friend in turn heard the story from a certain Fritz RIEGLER. RIEGLER had been in Amt IV in Yugoslavia. MAIER had had RIEGLER arrested by the SS for high treason, but, being near the end of the war, nothing was ever done and RIEGLER remained a free man until he was ultimately arrested by the Russians at the same time as Lial LOIDL. RIEGLER was reported together with LOIDL to be in captivity with SANITZER.

5. The picture is by no means clear, nor has it ever been. As has been previously reported most of the stories of SANITZER being a high level SRIS agent manipulating old Amt IV figures in a large net have emanated from Adolf SLAVIK of the Nationale Liga. Det 2 has had the Nationale Liga penetrated through V-14862. Most parties agree that the SANITZER legend is fabrication or an SRIS confusion operation. With SANITZER back it will be interesting to see if he talks, and if so what version he has. It became apparent to MAIER after talking with MAIER that the latter would probably stay clear of SANITZER, and rather try to resolve the puzzle, possibly more effectively, through acquaintances of SANITZER now coming to light or revealed in the debriefing.

Approved by:

30 November 1955

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